

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Examiner also objected to claim 13 for noted informalities. The Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 14-16 and 19-26 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the Examiner's rejections, claim 5 has been cancelled. The content of claim 5 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 17. Claim 7 was amended to make it depend from claim 1. Claim 13 was amended to address the Examiner's objection and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Arguments regarding claims 1-13 and 17-18 are provided below. No new matter has been added.

Claims 14 and 19 have been re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,875) in view of Trotta (U.S. Patent No. 5,084,968). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews and Trotta as they were applied claims in 1 and 17, and in further view of Andrews (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,288). With respect to the rejection of claim 5, the Examiner stated:

Andrews '288 shows (FIG. 53) razor blades (764,771) movable into the razor housing by means of resilient members (761,762) in response to shaving force.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to further modify Andrews '875 by having the razor blades movable into the razor housing by means of resilient members to provide a close shave as taught by Andrews '288.

(See page 4, paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action)

Andrews '875 is directed to in-line razor-blade shaving devices that feature two sets of razor blade strips extending outwardly in opposite direction relative to one another. These devices are designed for safely and rapidly shaving hair from large body portions such as legs and arms. Each device features an elongated handle arranged in line with an elongated bi-directional razor blade head. Each set of razor blade strips in the head may be provided with one or more sharp edges, which point in the same direction, while the blade edges of the two sets point outwardly away from one another, generally in opposite directions. The edges of the blade strips of the two sets of blade strips may be arranged in one common working plane, or each set may be in its own working plane, with the planes at an angle to one another. The working planes are defined by the elongated front and rear guard surfaces of the blade-edge guarding system on the face of the razor head. These guard surfaces contact a user's skin before and after the razor-sharp edges to help ensure safe shaving. The bi-directional head may be constructed in a variety of ways, including in a molded form, in an assembled form, as a replaceable bi-directional cartridge, and as two separate uni-directional razor blade heads arranged in close proximity to one another. These in-line bi-directional razor blade shaving devices represent a new family of wet shaving razor devices. They each can be used with a minimum of effort by sliding the razor blade head back and forth along the skin to be shaved, with shaving occurring in both directions. Some embodiments have two distinct working planes on the head of the shaving device. To use them, the user's wrist rotates at the end of each stroke (or at the beginning of the next stroke), to bring the other working plane, not currently on the skin, into engagement with the skin for the next stroke in the opposite direction.

Trotta is directed to a razor blade assembly comprising a platform member, blade means mounted on the platform member, the blade means having cutting edge means generally facing in a direction toward at least one side of the platform member, and a frame member adapted to receive the platform member interiorly of the frame member, the platform member and frame member being adapted to snap together such that the frame member extends around the platform member and provides skin engaging surfaces adjacent at least one side of the platform member.

Andrews '288 is directed to a single-head bi-directional razor device having an elongated bi-directional razor head with flexible guards along both outer

longitudinal edges are disclosed. The razor head may be constructed as a removable cartridge if desired, and has first and second sets of razor blade strips are positioned within the head in a substantially common working plane, with their sharpened edges pointing outwardly. The working plane is defined in part by the flexible guards, which preferably are formed as elongate pliable fins arranged adjacent the outer edges of the razor head. The first and second sets of razor blade strips may consist of one, two or three razor blade strips, and are each preferably mounted for individual spring-loaded movement. The user gently presses the razor head against the skin to be shaved, and then moves the head in one direction for contacting blades from the first set against the user's skin for cutting hair, and then, without lifting the razor head from the skin, moves the head in the opposite direction so that blades from the second set cut hair during this reverse movement. The flexible guard system helps manipulate the skin to be shaved so that it is taut, and helps position the sharpened edges of the blade strips to engage the skin with the appropriate amount of pressure for a closer shave.

Both of the Andrews references ('875 and '288), as discussed above, show bi-directional shaving devices having blades with cutting edges that generally face outwardly. There is no teaching or suggestion in these references taken either alone or in combination that it would be desirable or workable for a bi-directional razor having inwardly facing blades, as claimed in claim 1 as amended of the present application.

Although Trotta shows a bi-directional cartridge having blades generally facing each other (i.e., inwardly), Trotta does not teach or suggest a housing including a lower housing member and an upper housing member cooperating to define a cavity, and blade assemblies disposed within the cavity, as claimed in claim 1 as amended of the present application. Such cavities permit the blade assemblies to move therein when a shaving force is applied thereupon. Rather, Trotta shows a blade platform that cannot permit movement of the blade assemblies within the housing.

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion within either of the Andrews references, or the Trotta patent, to modify or combine any or all of the references to

teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Any such modification requires impermissible hindsight.

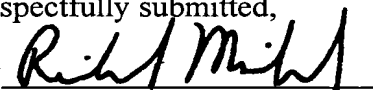
Accordingly, in light of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present rejection of claims 1 and 17.

In addition, please note that claims 2-4 and 6-13, and 18 depend from claims 1 and 17, respectively. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 17, respectively, as well as by virtue of the additional claim limitation included therein.

As noted by Applicants above, a check in the amount of \$1370 is enclosed to cover the fee required for unintentional abandonment of the application. No additional fees are believed to be due at this time. However, please charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 13-0235. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present Response or the Petition, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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